

Remarks

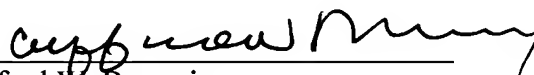
Newly submitted claims 31-36, which were presented in the Amendment After First Action Mailed October 29, 2003, were made the subject of a restriction requirement for the first time in the final Office Action mailed April 28, 2004. As support for that action, the Examiner cited 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b). However, 37 C.F.R. 1.42(a) states clearly that a restriction requirement can be made at any time before final action. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's failure to consider claims 31-36 raised for the first time in the final Office Action, as the restriction requirement should not have been imposed in a final Office Action according to 37 C.F.R. 1.142(a).

Claims 17 and 22 were objected to because of the informalities noted on page 2 of the final Office Action mailed April 28, 2004. As to claim 17, the noted informalities have been corrected in the proposed amendments to claim 17 set forth above, as the Examiner will note. With respect to claim 22, the Examiner noted that the phrase "the force-generating element" appearing in claim 22 lacks antecedent basis. Applicants acknowledge this is true, but Applicants note that the antecedent basis for the phrase "the force-generating element" can be found in claim 19. Consequently, and in compliance with the Examiner's statement that claim 22 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and noting that claim 22 depended from claim 17 or 20, Applicants have added the limitations of claims 19 and 22 and to claim 17 and have added the limitations of claims 19 and 22 to claim 20. By doing so, the Applicants have eliminated the antecedent basis problem of claim 22 by the addition of the limitations of claim 19 and have otherwise placed claim 22 in condition for allowance by incorporating its limitation into

claim 17, from which claim 22 depended, and also into claim 20, from which claim 22 also depended. As a consequence, Applicants now believe that both claims 17 and 20, as amended above, are in condition for allowance because they have been amended in exact compliance with the Examiner's instructions for placing claim 22 in condition for allowance.

For all these foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, which are all presented in exact compliance with the Examining Attorney's instructions contained within the final Office Action mailed April 28, 2004, to thereafter allow amended claims 17-30, and to consider and allow claims 31-36, as well, based upon the argument set forth above traversing the Examining Attorney's restriction of those claims for the first time in the final Office Action mailed April 28, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Clifford W. Browning
Reg. No. 32,201
Woodard, Emhardt et al. LLP
Bank One Center/Tower
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700
Indianapolis, IN 46204-5137
(317) 634-3456

#300139